

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. **(currently amended)** A gaming machine capable of accepting bills ~~which enables inserting a bill~~, the gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet;

a door [[,]] provided on a front face of the cabinet;

a bill insertion slot [[,]] provided in the door; and

a bill guide plate [[,]] provided on the door and [[,]] extending forward ~~outwards~~ from a lower end of the bill insertion slot for [[, and]] guiding a bill into the bill insertion slot, wherein the bill guide plate ~~has is equipped with~~ a plurality of openings for dropping ~~separating~~ foreign matter separated from the bill; ~~and dropping the foreign matter~~

wherein

the door has a mounting member; and

the mounting member has

a first open end covered by the bill guide plate and located under the openings of the bill guide plate for receiving the foreign matter dropped from said openings, and

a second open end located below and communicated with the first open end, second open end being opened downwards for directing the foreign matter further downwardly.

2. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein the

plurality of openings are a plurality of ~~[[slit]]~~ slot openings of a substantially rectilinear formation that are disposed parallel to each other.

3. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim 2, wherein the bill guide plate further has a plurality of partition members which divide ~~, each of which partition~~ the slot openings into smaller ~~, and the partition members form small~~ slit openings.

4. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein a length of each of the smaller slit openings formed by the partition members is smaller than a diameter of a coin utilized ~~[[in]]~~ with the gaming machine.

5. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim 3, wherein upper surfaces of the partition members are below a top surface of the bill guide plate ~~1, wherein the door has a mounting member, which is mounted in a detachable manner, and the mounting member has a first opening part, covered by the bill guide plate, and a second opening part, connected to the first opening part and being opened downwards.~~

6. **(currently amended)** The gaming machine according to claim ~~[[5]]~~ 1, wherein the bill guide plate is mounted as a separate member onto the mounting member.

7. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 6,
wherein a control panel is provided in an operating part of the door, the control panel having a notched part, and

wherein the mounting member and the bill guide plate fixed thereto are inserted into the notched part of the control panel.

8. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 6,

wherein a protrusion is formed on a rear wall of the bill guide plate and a cylindrical protrusion is formed on a front lower wall of the bill guide plate, the cylindrical protrusion comprising an internal thread,

wherein a groove is formed in a rear inner wall of the first open end of the mounting member, and the protrusion of the bill guide plate is insertable into the groove and the bill guide plate is tiltable towards the mounting member in order to assemble the bill guide plate onto the mounting member.

9. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 8,

wherein the bill guide plate is fixed to the mounting member by a single fixing screw threadedly engaged with the internal thread of said cylindrical protrusion.

10. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 1,

wherein the mounting member has a passage extending downward from the first open end to the second open end, being tapered as the passage extends downwardly.

11. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 5, wherein

several of the partition members are disposed in each of said slot openings, and the upper surface of the partition member closer to the bill insertion slot is lower than the upper surface of the partition member farther from the bill insertion slot.

12. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 1, wherein

the openings of the bill guide plate are slots elongated in a direction from a rear wall of the bill guide plate that is adjacent the bill insertion slot toward a front wall of the bill guide plate; and said bill guide plate further comprises

longitudinal separating walls extending in said direction and separating adjacent slots from each other, and

slot bottom walls each of which is disposed between two adjacent separating walls and extends rearwardly in said direction from the front wall of said bill guide plate and obliquely downwardly towards the first open end of the mounting member without completely closing the respective slot defined between said two adjacent separating walls.

13. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 12, wherein each of said bottom walls comprises

a first segment extending rearwardly from the front wall of said bill guide plate and obliquely downwardly at a first inclination; and

a second segment extending rearwardly from the first segment and obliquely downwardly at a second inclination greater than the first inclination.

14. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 13, wherein each of said bottom walls further comprises

a third segment extending downwardly from the second segment into the first open end of the mounting member.

15. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 12, wherein the bill guide plate further has a plurality of partition members dividing each of the slots into a number of smaller slits which comprise

a forwardmost and longest slit, and

at least one rear slit shorter than said forwardmost and longest slit;

wherein the slot bottom wall corresponding to said slot extends along said forwardmost and longest slit without completely closing said forwardmost and longest slit.

16. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein said slot bottom wall

terminates short of a forwardmost one of the partition members in the respective slot.

17. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 15, wherein upper surfaces of the partition members are below a top surface of the bill guide plate;

said top surface being defined by top surfaces of the separating walls which are flush with each other.

18. **(new)** A gaming machine capable of accepting bills, the gaming machine comprising:

a cabinet;

a door provided on a front face of the cabinet;

a bill insertion slot provided in the door; and

a bill guide plate provided on the door and extending forward from a lower end of the bill insertion slot for guiding a bill into the bill insertion slot, wherein the bill guide plate has a plurality of openings for dropping foreign matter separated from the bill;

wherein

the openings of the bill guide plate are slots elongated in a direction from a rear wall of the bill guide plate that is adjacent the bill insertion slot toward a front wall of the bill guide plate; and

said bill guide plate further comprises

longitudinal separating walls extending in said direction and separating adjacent slots from each other, and

slot bottom walls each of which is disposed between two adjacent separating walls and extends rearwardly in said direction from the front wall of said bill guide plate and obliquely downwardly without completely closing the respective slot defined between said two adjacent separating walls.

19. **(new)** The gaming machine according to claim 18, wherein the bill guide plate

further has a plurality of partition members dividing each of the slots into a number of smaller slits which comprise

a forwardmost and longest slit, and

at least one rear slit shorter than said forwardmost and longest slit;

wherein the slot bottom wall corresponding to said slot extends along said forwardmost and longest slit and terminates short of a forwardmost one of the partition members in the respective slot, without completely closing said forwardmost and longest slit.